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SUBJECT: ESTONIA WELCOMES FORMATION OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 81632

Classified By: CDA Jeff Goldstein for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) In a May 17 meeting the Ambassador indicated to Foreign Minister Urmas Paet that approval of PM al-Maliki's cabinet appeared forthcoming, and encouraged a public GOE statement of support if and when it occurred. On May 22 polecoff followed up by raising reftel points with MFA Middle East Director Marin Mottus. In remarks picked up by the Estonian press, the MFA spokeswoman said during her May 22 press brief that Estonia "regards the formation of the new government of Iraq as a milestone in creating democratic institutions in the country. The path cannot have been easy and the Iraqi nation can feel all the more satisfied with their active participation in elections having led to the formation of a truly national unity government."

GOLDSTEIN